REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New claims 30-44 have been added.

As discussed extensively in the initially filed application, layout arrangements frequently change, so that the selected azimuth and declination of the elongate member, and its diameter, change in the months between fabrication of the hull and the hanging of the elongate member. A standard basket may thus have its bore machined at a selected azimuth, declination, and diameter to match that desired for the elongate member, as typically computed months after the bracket is secured to the hull. See page 1, lines 9-10; page 3, lines 2-11; page 5, lines 4-6; page 6, lines 1-4; page 16, lines 6-21; and page 17, lines 1-4.

Applicant contends the invention defined by independent Claim 30 is not anticipated or made obvious with reference to any cited art. In particular, the prior art fails to show, inter alia, a receptacle assembly wherein the basket has a throughbore oriented at a fixed azimuth and declination with respect to an exterior reference surface of the basket, the fixed azimuth and declination selected as a function of the selected location on the seabed or the another structure to align the elongate member substantially toward the selected location on the seabed or the another structure. Rather, the prior art at most discloses a throughbore that is centered within the basket or has an azimuth and declination with respect to the basket that is unrelated to a selected location on the seabed or another structure toward which the elongate member will extend.

Independent claim 30 recites a basket *throughbore* having a selected azimuth and declination with respect to an exterior reference surface of the basket, selected as a function of the selected location on the seabed or the another structure. By contrast, even assuming the truth of the Examiner's assertion that the prior art *basket* is inherently at a selected azimuth and declination, the prior art does not disclose a throughbore having an azimuth and declination with respect to the basket, selected as a function of the location of the structure to which the elongate member extends.

Claim 32 depends from Claim 30 and recites that the azimuth and declination are both nonzero with respect to an axis of an arcuate reference surface on the basket. By contrast, the "standard" throughbore of a prior art basket typically has one and usually both of a zero azimuth and zero declination with respect to the basket. Independent claim 40 is narrowed to include the limitations of both Claim 30 and Claim 32, wherein the reference surface is an arcuate surface such as that of body 30, and the throughbore of the basket is oriented at a fixed nonzero azimuth

and nonzero declination with respect to an axis of the arcuate reference surface selected as a function of the selected location on the seabed or the another structure to align the elongate member substantially toward the selected location on the seabed or the another structure. Dependent Claims 33 and 43 disclose a basket comprising an outer body and a liner, wherein the basket liner defines the throughbore having the selected azimuth and declination. See page 10, lines 1-8. This is another feature not disclosed or recited in the prior art.

Claims 36-39 disclose receptacle assemblies comprising various embodiments of a projecting member and a receiving member to support the basket on the mounting bracket.

Further dependent claims have been added to recite novel variants of the invention.

Respectfully Submitted,

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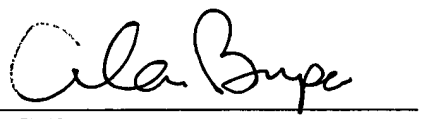
By 
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